

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently amended) A switch structure of a steering wheel at which a pair of opening portions are symmetrically formed between an inner periphery of a rim of the steering wheel and an outer periphery of a pad cover of the steering wheel, ~~as seen from a vehicle occupant side~~, at each of the opening portions a switch assembly constituted by a plurality of switches is disposed,

wherein an arrangement and a shape of the plurality of switches constituting the each switch assembly are determined so as to be symmetrical with respect to a ~~[[predetermined]] radially-oriented base line [[intersecting the]] bisecting~~ each of the opening portions~~[[.]]~~, and

wherein each of said switch assemblies comprise a body portion having a top side whose end portions are covered by switch buttons that extend to an inner periphery of said opening portions.

2. (Currently amended) A switch structure of a steering wheel according to claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]] each of said switch [[assembly]] assemblies includes a mounting member extending from said body portion in a radial direction toward said pad cover. is fixed to a component that is one of steering wheel side constituting parts.~~

3. (Withdrawn) A switch structure of a steering wheel according to claim 1, wherein the switch assembly is fixed to a component that is one of pad cover side constituting parts.

4. (Currently amended) A switch of a steering wheel according to claim ~~[[1]] 2,~~ wherein ~~said mounting member has end portions adapted to be attached to spokes of said steering wheel. the predetermined base line passes through a center of the steering wheel.~~

5. (Currently amended) A switch structure of a steering wheel at which opening portions are [[formed]] positioned between an inner periphery of a rim of the steering wheel and an outer periphery of a pad cover of the steering wheel ~~as seen from a vehicle occupant side~~, at each of which opening portions a switch assembly constituted by a plurality of switches is disposed,

wherein arrangement of the plurality of switches is the same at each switch assembly, and

a switch disposed at corresponding [[portion]] portions of each switch assembly has the same shape at each switch assembly[[.]], and

wherein each of said switch assemblies comprise a body portion having a top side whose end portions are covered by switch buttons that extend to an inner periphery of said opening portions.

6. (Currently Amended) A switch structure of a steering wheel according to claim 5 comprising;

a first opening portion and a second opening portion formed between the inner periphery of the rim and the outer periphery of the pad cover ~~as seen from the vehicle occupant~~;

a first switch assembly constituted by a plurality of switches disposed in the first opening portion; and

a second switch assembly constituted by a plurality of switches disposed in the second opening portion,

wherein an arrangement of the plurality of switches of the first switch assembly is the same as an arrangement of the plurality of switches of the second switch assembly, and

each switch of the plurality of switches of the first switch assembly has a same shape with a shape of a switch of the plurality of switches of the second switch assembly which switch corresponds to the each switch of the plurality of switches of the first switch assembly[[.]], and

wherein each of said switch assemblies comprise a body portion having a top side whose end portions are covered by switch buttons that extend to an inner periphery of said opening portions.

**Please add the following new claims:**

7. (New) A switch structure of a steering wheel according to claim 1, wherein said body portion of each of said switch assemblies has a bottom end that is laterally displaced away from said top side toward said pad cover.
8. (New) Claim 1, further comprising a mounting member adapted for mounting said switching assemblies to a pad side floating horn metal member.